

REMARKS

In summary, the Examiner has withdrawn the previous claim rejections over Hinden et al. (RFC 2373 "IP Version 6 Addressing Architecture") and Itakura (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0060285), however the Examiner maintains the prior art rejections over the combination of Hinden and Marttinen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,222,853). The Examiner also maintains the previous provisional double patenting rejection.

Specifically, claims 1 and 5 remain provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1 and 4 of co-pending Application No. 10/664,028, hereinafter App'028.

Claims 1, 3, and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hinden in view of Marttinen.

Provisional Double Patenting Rejections (App '028) - Claims 1 and 5

Claims 1 and 5 remain provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting based on the reasons set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office Action.

First, Applicants yet again maintain that claims 1 and 5 of the present application are patentably distinguishable over claims 1 and 4 of App '028 at least since claims 1 and 4 of App '028 do not recite, "providing an interface ID area comprising a company ID area and a serial number area using an EUI-64 ID format; and identifying the devices using device ID information for identifying types of the devices recorded in an unused area in the company ID area of an interface ID area, using an EUI-64 ID format, the unused area in the company ID area being an area excluding a used area used for representing the company ID in the company ID area, and using unique numbers assigned to devices recorded in the serial number area," as recited in claim 1 of the present application.

Yet further, Applicants again request that the Examiner hold this rejection in abeyance until the other pending application issues as a patent. Specifically, according to MPEP § 804 I.B., if a provisional double patenting rejection in one application is the only rejection remaining, then the Examiner should withdraw the provisional rejection and permit that application to issue as a patent, thereby converting the provisional double patenting rejection in the other application, i.e., App '028, into a bona fide double patenting rejection at the time the one application issues as a patent. Therefore, if all other claim rejections are withdrawn in the present application, claims 1 and 5 should be found allowable and the present application should be permitted to issue as a patent.

§103(a) Rejections (Hinden / Marttinen) - Claims 1, 3, and 5-10

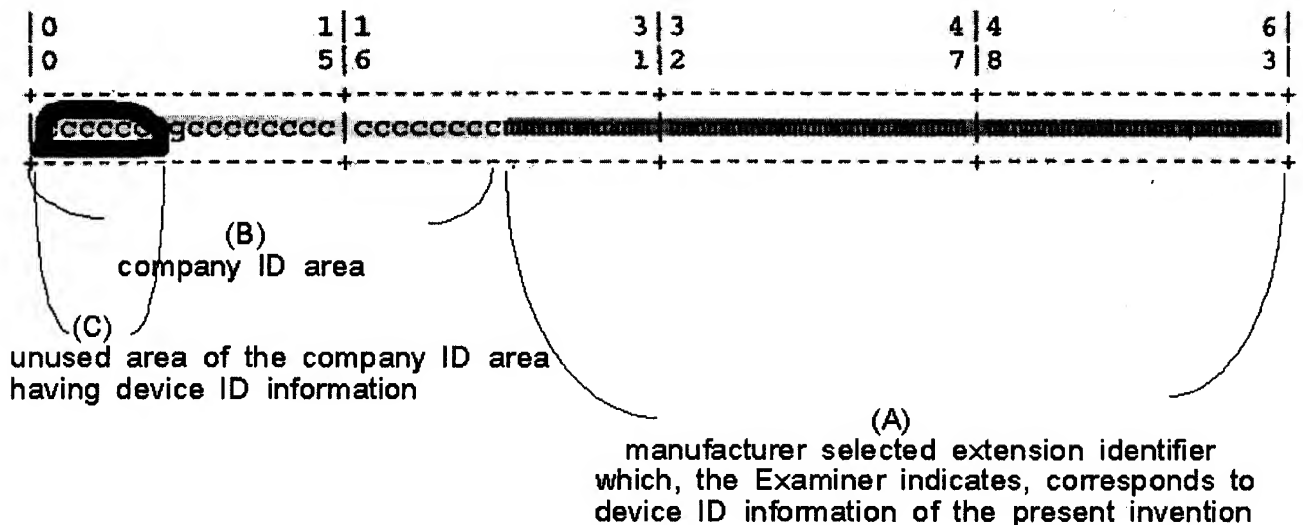
Applicants maintain, as argued previously, that the Examiner has not addressed each and every feature of the claimed invention.

Specifically, Applicants maintain the following arguments in support of patentability of the claimed invention.

That is, Applicants maintain that device ID information of exemplary embodiments of the claimed invention can be arranged in unused area (C) among the company ID area (B). However, the part which the Examiner alleges corresponds to the claimed device ID information is the manufacturer selected extension identifier (A). As seen from the Figure herein below, (C) is absolutely different from extension identifier (A). Applicants do not understand why the Examiner thinks that (C) is the same as (A).

The claimed invention can use a part of a company ID area (B), i.e., the unused area in the company ID area (B) to represent device ID information, but the applied art does not disclose using the unused area among the company ID area (B) to represent device ID information.

Figure:



Further, Applicants submit that the Examiner is obviously utilizing impermissible hindsight reasoning in concluding that the general concept of the teachings of the applied art would render the claimed invention obvious, and that the above-discussed features are simply a matter of design choice. Nowhere does the applied art even mention, “identifying the devices using device ID information for identifying types of the devices recorded in an unused area in the company ID area of an interface ID area.” Therefore, the conclusion of the Examiner that simply because the applied art allegedly shows a company idea area and a manufacturer selected extension identifier does not render the specific features of “identifying the devices using device ID information for identifying types of the devices recorded in an unused area in the company ID area of an interface ID area,” and “wherein the unused area in the company ID area is an area excluding a used area used for representing manufacturers of the devices in the company ID area,” as being satisfied.

At least based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 5 are patentably distinguishable over the applied references, either alone or in combination.

Applicants submit that dependent claims 3 and 6-10 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1 and 5.

Request for Interview

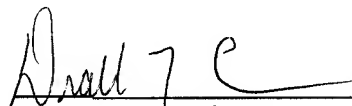
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to discuss this case, in an effort to advance prosecution.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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